

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Serial No.: 10/814,995

Art Unit: 1641

Filed: March 31, 2004

Examiner: Nelson C. Yang

For: *CONTROLLED SURFACE CHEMICAL GRADIENTS*

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.97,

Applicants submit a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, including one (1) page of Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the one (1) document cited therein.

The reference cited below is a foreign language reference which was cited by the Japanese Patent Office in the corresponding Japanese Patent Application, Japanese Patent Application No. 2006-532361. An English abstract is included, which Applicants believe satisfies the requirement for a concise explanation of the relevance of the foreign language documents under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3).

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) after a first Office Action on merits. The Commissioner is authorized to charge \$180.00, the fee set forth under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), to Account No. 50-3129. It is believed that no

additional fee is required with this submission. However, should a fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees to Deposit Account No. 50-3129.

Foreign Document

<u>Number</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Patentee</u>	<u>Country</u>
10-005673 (w/ english abst.)	01-13-1998	Asahi Optical Co. Ltd.	JP

Remarks

Japanese Application No. 10-005683 to Asahi Optical Co. Ltd (“Asahi”) discloses a method for forming a bulk gradient. Asahi indicates that a compound that penetrates “into the plastic lens and having affinity for the dye is used”. A bulk gradient is formed within the material, not on the surface of the material.

In contrast, the claims of the present application define surface-chemical gradients, and methods of making and using surface-chemical gradients. Surface chemical gradients are gradual changes in the chemistry of a surface, and do not modify the properties of the bulk material forming the substrate.

Additionally, Asahi indicates a dying aid to attach the dye is required, while such an aid is absent from the claimed methods and substrates. In contrast, claim 1 specifies that the solution contains a first adsorbate, which adsorbs (but does not penetrate) onto the surface.

Finally, Asahi does not disclose forming radially symmetric gradients, as required by claims 13-18.

This statement should not be interpreted as a representation that an exhaustive search has been conducted or that no better art exists. Moreover, Applicants invite the Examiner to make an independent evaluation of the cited art to determine its relevance to the subject matter of the present application. Applicants are of the opinion that their claims patentably distinguish over the art referred to herein, either alone or in combination.

Respectfully submitted,

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